

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 6)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, SENV, FR
SUBJECT: SOLAR ENERGY COOPERATION

1. PROFESSORS JOHN REICHART AND HERB CARPER CALLED AT
EMBASSY JUNE 14 FOR DISCUSSIONS OF SOLAR ENERGY PRO-
JECTS. TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY JUST SIGNED RENEWAL
CONTRACT WITH DOE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 20 METER DIAMETER
ELECTRICITY-PRODUCING SOLAR ENERGY APPARATUS. THIS
CONTRACT IS SHARED WITH E SYSTEMS WHICH HAS DONE WORK
IN SPHERICAL RADAR AND LARGE SCALE TELESCOPES. REICHART

AND CARPER HAD VISITED PERICLES PROJECT IN SOUTHERN
FRANCE DURING PRECEDING TWO DAYS, AT THE SUGGESTION OF
DOE OFFICIALS.

2. EMBOFF AND C. S. SELVAGE OF SANDIA LABS TOOK THE
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TWO TEXAS TECH PROFESSORS TO CALL ON MICHEL RODOT,
HEAD OF FRANCE'S INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM ON SOLAR
ENERGY. RODOT SAID FRENCH PROJECTS PLANS EVENTUALLY
TO GO TO A SYSTEM OF 60 METER DIAMETER DISHES AND
EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN KEEPING IN TOUCH.

3. TWO POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE PROJECTS WERE MENTIONED

FOLLOWING EXTENDED DISCUSSIONS OF U.S. AND FRENCH SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS. ONE MIGHT INVOLVE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA AND ORGANISATION COMMUNE AFRICAINE ET MALGACHE (OCAM). RODOT HAS MET WITH HEAD OF ONERSAL, NIGERIA'S NATIONAL SOLAR ENERGY AGENCY. THAT COUNTRY HAS AN APPROPRIATE SITE, IS VERY INTERESTED AND MIGHT HAVE SOME FRENCH AID FUNDING (NOT FURTHER SPECIFIED)

AVAILABLE.

4. RODOT ALSO MENTIONED INDIA, IN WHICH HE DEMONSTRATED A GREATER INTEREST. HE THOUGHT THAT WITH LARGE AREAS WITH NO ELECTRICITY, WHICH INDIA CANNOT AFFORD TO PUT INTO ITS GRID, WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH SOLAR ENERGY FOR DEMONSTRATION IN THE MEDIUM TERM TIME FRAME. THERE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE ANY FRENCH FUNDING OF THIS PROJECT. RODOT TOLD HIS AMERICAN VISITORS HE IS IN TOUCH WITH A DR. KATTI OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN NEW DELHI.

5. RODOT, WHO HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO STAGE HIS SOLAR COOPERATIONS WITH THE U.S. IN THIRD COUNTRIES, TOLD US GOF HAD PLANS FOR SOLAR COOPERATION IN BRAZIL BUT THE KIND OF RESULTS HE SET GREAT STORE BY WERE NOT PARTICULARLY POSSIBLE THERE SINCE OTHER KINDS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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ENERGY PROVIDE KEEN COMPETITION.

6. RODOT, AUTHIER, AND OTHER GOF SOLAR ENERGY OFFICIALS, MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THEY SEEK TO FIND MARKETS FOR SOLAR ENERGY EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY OF FRENCH MANUFACTURE. THEY HAVE NOT MADE CLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO HAVE AMERICAN FIRMS INVOLVED IN ANY OF THE JOINT PROJECTS. EMBASSY CONTINUES, HOWEVER, TO BE ALERT TO THIS PROBLEM.
HARTMAN

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